

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Agency 495

Department of Agriculture

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2003-05 Expenditure Authority	661.1	18,700	77,550	96,250
Total Maintenance Level	670.2	19,185	79,997	99,182
Difference	9.1	485	2,447	2,932
Percent Change from Current Biennium	1.4%	2.6%	3.2%	3.0%
Performance Changes				
Middle Management Reduction	(4.0)	(128)	(321)	(449)
Livestock Nutrient Management	1.0		270	270
Sudden Oak Death	3.0	422		422
Pesticide Surface Water Monitoring			509	509
General Inflation		(57)	(247)	(304)
Subtotal		237	211	448
Total Proposed Budget	670.2	19,422	80,208	99,630
Difference	9.1	722	2,658	3,380
Percent Change from Current Biennium	1.4%	3.9%	3.4%	3.5%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Agency Administration	46.5	3,149	5,500	8,649
Agricultural Fairs	2.0		4,227	4,227
Agricultural Promotion and Protection		1,042	1,422	2,464
Animal Health	10.1	1,593	600	2,193
Chemistry Laboratory	12.0	921	2,378	3,299
Commission Merchants	4.1		486	486
Commodity Commissions		10		10
Feed Regulation	7.8	150	687	837
Fertilizer Regulation	5.4		725	725
Food Safety	43.4	3,777	2,601	6,378
Fruit and Vegetable Inspection	206.7		21,462	21,462
Grain Inspection	86.0		9,631	9,631
Grain Warehouse Audit	4.0		486	486
Hop Inspection	8.1		733	733
Marketing and Economic Development	7.2	2,067	501	2,568
Livestock Identification	19.6		1,813	1,813
Livestock Nutrient Management Program	7.7		1,206	1,206
Microbiology Laboratory	12.8	1,335	709	2,044
Nursery Inspection	13.3		1,895	1,895
Organic Food Certification	16.6		2,539	2,539
Pesticide Regulation	56.4	632	8,962	9,594
Plant Protection	55.9	4,042	5,136	9,178
Planting Stock Certification	4.3		716	716
Seed Inspection/Certification	30.0		3,352	3,352
Small Farm and Direct Marketing	2.0	150	50	200

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	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
Weights and Measures Inspection	12.4	354	1,328	1,682
Compensation Cost Adjustment		328	1,384	1,712
Middle Management Reduction	(4.0)	(128)	(321)	(449)
Total Proposed Budget	670.2	19,422	80,208	99,630

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS**Middle Management Reduction**

The Governor has directed that middle management be reduced by 1,000 positions by the end of the biennium. This item is this agency's share of the statewide amount.

Livestock Nutrient Management

Legislation enacted in 2003 transferred the state's livestock nutrient management program from the Department of Ecology to the Department of Agriculture. Travel and attorney general costs, as well as the number of follow-up inspections needed have been higher than anticipated at the time of the transfer. Funding and staffing are provided for additional legal, travel, and inspection costs. (Water Quality Account-State)

Sudden Oak Death

Sudden Oak Death (SOD) is a recently introduced plant disease that threatens the state's nursery industry and forest lands. Caused by a fungus-like organism, this disease attacks more than 60 different plant species, many of which are common to Washington State, including camellia, Douglas fir, and rhododendron. SOD has been found in 26 western Washington nurseries since it was first detected in 2003, and is stopped only through the destruction of affected plant materials. Funding and staffing are provided to detect, contain, and eradicate SOD.

Pesticide Surface Water Monitoring

A combination of one-time and ongoing funding is provided to monitor pesticide residues in the Skagit River basin, a western Washington watershed of agricultural significance, to provide additional Washington-specific data for federal assessments of the potential pesticide risk to salmon. Pesticide data collected by the state from the Cedar-Sammamish and Lower Yakima basins have been used, and have influenced outcomes, in federal assessments of the effects of most pesticides named in the Washington Toxics Coalition v. Environmental Protection Agency lawsuit. (State Toxics Account-State)

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS**Agency Administration**

This activity provides executive leadership, policy development and review, financial services, computer and information technology services, personnel services, homeland security, communications, administrative procedures guidance, legal services, and safety and emergency management programs for the department's 25 programs. The budget amounts for this activity are the overhead component of agency administrative costs. (Motor Vehicle Account-State, various other funds)

Agricultural Fairs

The fairs program provides about \$2 million in financial assistance to agricultural fairs and youth shows each year. The director of the Department of Agriculture appoints a seven-member Fairs Commission to recommend fund allocations to participating fairs. This program coordinates the activities of the commission, audits all required reports and information from participating fairs, and verifies that fairs operate in compliance with state law. Currently, 70 fairs participate in the fairs program. (Fair Account-Nonappropriated)

Agricultural Promotion and Protection

This activity provides funding for the "From the Heart of Washington" campaign, and other activities that promote the sale of food and agricultural products produced in the state. It also includes moneys appropriated for specific projects that assist the state's agricultural industry.

Animal Health

The Animal Health program protects animals and the public from communicable animal diseases, such as brucellosis, tuberculosis, E. coli 0157:H7, salmonella (various types), rabies, Hantavirus, and others. To prevent such diseases from entering the state, the program monitors the movement of animals across state lines by inspecting animals, issuing or denying impact permits, and monitoring mandatory health certificates for all animals entering the state. The program is responsible for emergency management planning to ensure the state is prepared to trace back and control introduced foreign animal diseases. It cooperates with universities, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and others to collect samples and data.

Chemistry Laboratory

The chemistry laboratory in Yakima supports department programs by analyzing samples taken in investigations of alleged pesticide misuse, monitoring for pesticide residues in foods, and determining if commercial feed and fertilizer samples meet label guarantees. These activities are funded by a mix of state, federal, and local funds. The laboratory also participates in a federally-funded program for monitoring pesticide residue levels in fruits, vegetables, and other commodities, and performs fee-for-service chemical analysis for the hop industry. (Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

Commission Merchants

The Commission Merchants program protects agricultural producers against theft, fraud, and unfair business practices by licensing persons and businesses involved in buying and selling agricultural products. Licensees who purchase or handle agricultural products on consignment must be bonded. Funded by license fees, the program investigates producer complaints against commission merchants and cooperates with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. (Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

Commodity Commissions

This program administers agency responsibilities related to the state's 24 agricultural commodity commissions. Each commission is funded by producers and engages primarily in marketing and/or research related to its specific commodity. The director of Agriculture is a board member of each commission. The program reviews and approves commission programs and budgets; supervises or coordinates the nomination, election, or appointment of commission members; and oversees the issuance, amendment, or termination of commission marketing orders.

Feed Regulation

The Commercial Feed program regulates the distribution of animal feeds to ensure product identity, quality, and proper labeling. It registers and reviews labels of more than 2,000 pet food products, and licenses about 500 manufacturers and initial distributors of other animal feed products. It inspects feed mills for compliance with good manufacturing practices, and also analyzes feed samples to determine accuracy of label guarantees. The program is funded primarily by fees paid by the feed industry. (Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

Fertilizer Regulation

This program licenses 2,500 fertilizer products for distribution in the state, and analyzes fertilizer samples to verify label guarantees for plant nutrients and to ensure that heavy metal content does not exceed state standards. It inspects fertilizer facilities and irrigation systems to ensure required safeguards are in place to prevent ground water and surface water contamination. The program is funded entirely by fees paid by the fertilizer industry. (Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

Food Safety

This program protects the public from injury and illness caused by food products that are contaminated, adulterated, or otherwise unfit for consumption. This is accomplished through surveillance, regulation, and inspection of the dairy, egg, food processing, and storage industries. Inspectors examine facilities for product adulteration, cleanliness, evidence of rodent infestation, potential for cross contamination with chemicals and toxic materials, appropriate holding temperatures, and sanitary preparation techniques. Staff members conduct 13,000 inspections and tests each year. It is funded by the state General Fund, federal funds, and fees paid by food processors, food storage warehouses, milk processors, and the egg industry. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Federal, Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

Fruit and Vegetable Inspection

This program provides inspection services to the fresh produce and processing industry to ensure orderly marketing of fruits and vegetables. Commodities are inspected for quality, size, labeling, condition, and contract specifications, and may be certified as free from disease and insects as required by domestic and international markets. These services are provided through district offices in Yakima and Wenatchee and ten field offices throughout the state. This is a self-supporting, fee-for-service program. (Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated, Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Account-Nonappropriated)

Grain Inspection

This program provides inspection and analytical and weighing services to ensure orderly commerce for grain, dry peas, dry beans, lentils, rapeseed, and similar commodities sold in or from Washington. These services are offered at eight inspection facilities throughout the state. The program is funded by fees, and as required by federal law, provides service 24 hours a day, seven days a week, upon request. (Grain Inspection Revolving Account-Nonappropriated)

Grain Warehouse Audit

The Grain Warehouse Audit program protects grain producers from undue losses by licensing, bonding, and auditing warehouses and dealers. Funded by license fees, the program audits grain storage warehouses and grain dealers to assure producers and depositors that licensees are meeting storage requirements and other contractual obligations. (Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

Hop Inspection

This program performs physical grading and chemical analysis of the Washington hop crop (75 percent of the nation's supply) and a significant portion of Oregon and Canadian crops to ensure orderly international and domestic marketing. This is a self-supporting program that is funded by fees paid by hop producers and dealers for requested services. (Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

Marketing and Economic Development

This program assists food and agricultural companies in selling their products internationally. It contracts with trade representatives in the major markets of Japan, Taiwan, China, and southeast Asia to assist state businesses with export transactions and market development. It offers one-on-one assistance to export-ready businesses; organizes and leads companies on trade missions and to major trade shows; and develops and distributes information to buyers on the state's agricultural suppliers. The program also coordinates the department's economic development and domestic marketing efforts. The program works closely with commodity commissions and the Office of the Governor's trade representative to fight trade barriers that prevent or limit overseas market access for Washington's agricultural and food products.

Livestock Identification

This program maintains the official recordings of approximately 6,000 livestock brands. As a theft prevention measure, cattle and horses are inspected for brands or other proof of ownership at public livestock markets, slaughter plants, certified feed lots, and at any change of ownership. About 650,000 cattle and 15,000 horses are inspected annually. The program licenses and bonds public livestock markets to ensure proper payment for cattle, and also licenses and audits certified feed lots to verify inspection certificates for slaughtered cattle. This program is funded through fees paid by the livestock industry. (Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

Livestock Nutrient Management Program

This program provides assistance, inspects the state's 600 dairy farms, and takes action to ensure animal feeding operations comply with state and federal water quality laws. (Water Quality Account-State, Water Quality Permit Account-State, Livestock Nutrient Management Account-State)

Microbiology Laboratory

The microbiology laboratory located in Olympia supports the department's Food Safety program by testing food and dairy products for food poisoning organisms and by examining food products for contamination by insects, rodents, or filth. The laboratory also tests dairy products for quality and to meet requirements for the interstate shipment of milk. Laboratory staff members inspect and certify commercial and dairy industry laboratories which perform officially sanctioned dairy microbiology. It also supports the agency's Animal Health program by testing animal blood and tissue for disease.

Nursery Inspection

This program inspects nurseries to ensure that consumers and the nursery industry are provided healthy, pest-free, and disease-free plant materials. The program enforces agricultural quarantines to prevent pest introduction and, on request, provides inspection services to certify that Washington nursery stock and plant materials are free from disease and insects, as required by domestic and international markets. The program is funded by license fees paid by nursery dealers and fees paid for requested inspections. (Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

Organic Food Certification

The Organic Food program protects consumers and supports the organic food industry by ensuring that all food products making organic claims meet state standards for organic production and labeling. It inspects, certifies, and provides technical assistance to more than 850 organic producers, processors, and handlers. The program is funded by fees paid by the organic industry. (Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

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Pesticide Regulation

The pesticide program regulates the sale and use of pesticides in Washington. It investigates complaints of pesticide misuse, conducts field inspections of pesticide manufacturers and applicators, and provides technical assistance to pesticide users. It annually reviews and registers more than 8,000 pesticide products for use in the state. It administers a program to train Spanish-speaking farm workers in the safe and legal use of pesticides, and manages the waste pesticide program which disposes of canceled, suspended, or unusable pesticides. It also protects resources such as ground water from pesticide or fertilizer contamination and has initiated a program to evaluate and mitigate the impact of pesticides on threatened or endangered species.

Plant Protection

The Plant Protection program protects the state's resources by preventing the establishment of high-risk insects, plant diseases, and weeds. Staff members conduct surveys and inspections, disseminate information, enforce agricultural quarantines, provide laboratory diagnostic services, review and permit the release of certain insects and exotic plant pathogens, and carry out projects to eradicate pests. The program coordinates statewide efforts to control purple loosestrife and to eradicate spartina, both non-native aquatic weeds, and to control Japanese knotweed. It works with the State Noxious Weed Control Board and is responsible for noxious weed control in counties without weed boards.

Planting Stock Certification

The Planting Stock Certification program provides testing and inspection services to ensure disease-free planting stock for various agricultural industries. Voluntary certification programs are currently provided for fruit trees and related ornamentals, seed potatoes, hops, grapes, mint, garlic, and strawberries. This is a self-supporting, fee-for-service program. (Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

Seed Inspection/Certification

This program conducts pre-harvest field inspections and laboratory testing of agricultural, vegetable, and flower seeds grown under the seed certification program. It tests seed samples submitted by seed growers and companies to determine compliance with purity and germination standards and to certify seed for domestic and international marketing. It also operates the only official seed testing laboratory in the state. This is a self-supporting, fee-for-service program. (Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated)

Small Farm and Direct Marketing

The Small Farm and Direct Marketing program works to improve the viability of the state's small farms by reducing market barriers and developing or enhancing direct marketing opportunities for farmers.

Weights and Measures Inspection

This program regulates the use and accuracy of all commercial weighing, measuring, and counting devices, including gas pumps, grocery store scale systems, price scanners, vehicle-tank meters, and liquid petroleum gas measuring devices. Staff inspect and test devices for accuracy and suitability for service and inspect packaged commodities for correct content (expressed in net weight, volume or count), labeling, and pricing. The program operates the state metrology laboratory, which houses the official state standards of weights and measures, and provides calibration services to businesses, laboratories, and government entities. (Agricultural Local Account-Nonappropriated, Motor Vehicle Account-State)

Compensation Cost Adjustment

This item reflects proposed compensation and benefit cost adjustments that were not allocated to individual agency activities. The agency will assign these costs to the proper activities after the budget is enacted.

Middle Management Reduction

The Governor has directed that middle management be reduced by 1,000 positions by the end of the biennium. This item is this agency's share of the statewide amount. These savings will be assigned to the appropriate activities after the budget is enacted.